

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-9 (cancelled)

10. (new) A filter body intended in particular for filtering particles contained in the exhaust gases of an internal combustion engine, said filter body being formed by bonding filter units by means of a joint (17), characterized in that an exterior surface (16) of a first of said units (11) face to face with a second of said units and in contact with said joint (17) includes at least one irregularity (30a, 30b) of the boss and/or recess type.

11. (new) A filter body according to claim 10, characterized in that said irregularity (30a, 30b) extends along the longitudinal axis (D-D) of said first unit (11) over the whole length of said first unit (11).

12. (new) A filter body according to claim 10, characterized in that said irregularity (30a, 30b) is a recess (30b) carried by an exterior face (32b) of a gas outlet passage (14b) at the periphery of said first unit (11).

13. (new) A filter body according to claim 10, characterized in that said irregularity (30a, 30b) is a boss (30a) carried by an

exterior face (32a) of a gas inlet passage (14a) at the periphery of said first unit (11).

14. (new) A filter body according to claim 12, characterized in that the width (1) of said irregularity (30a, 30b) measured in a transverse plane (P) of said first unit (11) is substantially equal to the width of said exterior face (32a, 32b) of said passage (14a, 14b).

15. (new) A filter body according to claim 10, characterized in that said exterior surface (16) includes a plurality of said irregularities (30a, 30b) regularly spaced from each other.

16. (new) A filter body according to claim 10, characterized in that at least one portion of said exterior surface (16) of said first unit (11) has a sinusoidal shape in cross section.

17. (new) A filter body according to claim 10, characterized in that said irregularity (30a, 30b) is conformed so that it can be accommodated in an irregularity (30a, 30b) of complementary shape of said second unit.

18. (new) A filter body according to claim 10, characterized in that said irregularity (30a, 30b) is a recess (30b') formed in the thickness of an exterior wall (34b') of a passage (14b') at the periphery of said first unit (11).

19. (new) A filter body according to claim 11, characterized in that said irregularity (30a, 30b) is a recess (30b) carried by an exterior face (32b) of a gas outlet passage (14b) at the periphery of said first unit (11).

20. (new) A filter body according to claim 11, characterized in that said irregularity (30a, 30b) is a boss (30a) carried by an exterior face (32a) of a gas inlet passage (14a) at the periphery of said first unit (11).

21. (new) A filter body according to claim 13, characterized in that the width (l) of said irregularity (30a, 30b) measured in a transverse plane (P) of said first unit (11) is substantially equal to the width of said exterior face (32a,32b) of said passage (14a, 14b).